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NEW SOUTH WALES SHOULD SCRAP NATIONAL CURRICULUM, NOT DELAY IT

The free market think tank, the Institute of Public Affairs, today welcomed the decision of the O'Farrell government to delay implementing the Gillard government's national curriculum until 2013.

'This delay is welcome. But the O'Farrell government should go further - New South Wales should withdraw from the national curriculum completely,' said the IPA's Chris Berg, Editor of *The National Curriculum: A Critique*.

The National Curriculum: A Critique was published earlier this year by the Institute of Public Affairs and Mannkal Economic Education Foundation, as part of the Foundations of Western Civilisation Program.

'Our research found that the National Curriculum was biased against the values and principles upon which Western Civilisation was founded.

'Julia Gillard's national curriculum ignores the central role Christianity played in the history of Europe and Australia. It ignores the development of liberalism and democracy by excluding critical events like the English Civil War and the writing of the Magna Carta. And it treats important developments like the Industrial Revolution with disdain, blaming that event for slavery.

'The National Curriculum's hostility to Western Civilisation is a serious problem if the next generation of students are going to understand the origins and strengths of their own society', said Mr Berg.

In March the Executive Director of the IPA, John Roskam, wrote to all members of the New South Wales parliament outlining the concerns that this research raised. A copy of that letter is available at http://www.ipa.org.au/library/publication/1300851496_document_garrett_letter.pdf.

'We are pleased that the New South Wales government is coming to terms with the critical problems we've identified in the National Curriculum,' said Mr Berg.

'But they should go one step further and scrap the curriculum altogether.'

Media comment: Chris Berg, Research Fellow, Institute of Public Affairs, 0402 257 681, cberg@ipa.org.au.

For more information about *The National Curriculum: A Critique* and the Foundations of Western Civilisation Program, visit <http://westerncivilisation.ipa.org.au>.